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ACTION BP-10

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 AID-07 INR-10 CIAE-00 IO-18 NEA-06
NSAE-00 MA-06 TRSE-00 SP-02 SR-04 1061 W
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P 020337Z OCT 81
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0013
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL PESHAWAR POUCH
AMCONSUL LAHORE POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 12882

**E.O. 12065: RDS-4, 10/0/91 (KING, D.) OR-M
TAGS: SREF, SAID, UNHCR, PK
SUBJECT: (U) VISIT TO PAKISTAN OF UN REFUGEE
COMMISSIONER**

REF: (A) PESHAWAR 480 (B) PESHAWAR 481 (BOTH NOTAL)

1. (U) UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES POUL HARTLING CONDUCTED A SEVEN-DAY SURVEY, SEPTEMBER 21-27, OF UNHCR-LED AFGHAN REFUGEE RELIEF EFFORT IN PAKISTAN. HE CONFERRED WITH NUMEROUS GOP, UN, AND DONOR NATION OFFICIALS, INCLUDING PRESIDENT ZIA, AND VISITED REFUGEE VILLAGES IN NORTHWEST FRONTIER PROVINCE (NWFP) AND BALUCHISTAN. HARTLING PRAISED THE GOP FOR ITS HOSPITALITY AND GENEROSITY TOWARD THE "WORLD'S LARGEST REFUGEE POPULATION". COMMISSIONER DIRECTLY ADDRESSED PROBLEM OF MULTIPLE AND FALSE REGISTRATIONS, CONCEDED THAT THERE WERE DIFFICULTIES AND ANNOUNCED THAT A "REENUMERATION" OF THE REFUGEE POPULATION WAS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY. THIS EFFORT WOULD BE COMPLETED

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IN BALUCHISTAN WITHIN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS AND IN MUFP.

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A 4x10 grid of dots forming the letters 'BIOLOGY'. The dots are arranged in a 4x10 grid, with the letters 'BIOLOGY' formed by the dots.

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WHICH HAS A MUCH LARGER REFUGEE POPULATION, WITHIN THE NEXT TWO MONTHS.

2. (U) HARTLING INDICATED THAT UNHCR CLEARLY PREFERRED VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION AS SOLUTION TO REFUGEE PROBLEM. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, HARTLING STATED THAT THE REFUGEES WISHED TO RETURN HOME AS SOON AS CONDITIONS PERMITTED, AND THAT THE UNHCR WAS PREPARED TO HELP. HARTLING SAID HE HAD INFORMED THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO PAKISTAN THAT UNHCR'S "POLICY TOWARDS THE REFUGEE WAS ABSOLUTELY HUMANITARIAN AND NOT POLITICAL".

3. (U) ON SEPTEMBER 27, HARTLING MET BANKING REPRESENTATIVES OF DONOR NATIONS IN ISLAMABAD. ALTHOUGH THE REFUGEES LIVED IN PRIMITIVE CONDITIONS, HE SAID, THEY APPEARED FIT AND WITH HIGH MORALE. THE COMMISSIONER SAID HE WOULD PROPOSE A UNHCR BUDGET OF DOLS 72 MILLION FOR CY 1982 WHICH WOULD STRESS VOCATIONAL TRAINING. THE UNHCR WOULD ALSO HELP UNDERWRITE WATER, IRRIGATION AND REFORESTATION SCHEMES -- NONE OF WHICH SHOULD BE TAKEN AS PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT MEASURES.

4. (U) THE DAY AFTER HARTLING'S DEPARTURE, THE GOP ANNOUNCED THE EXPANSION, WITH UNHCR AID, OF AN INCOME-GENERATING PROGRAM FOR REFUGEES. PROGRAM INVOLVES 14 CARPET-WEAVING CENTERS IN NWFP AND BALUCHISTAN TO TRAIN YOUNG LOCAL AND REFUGEE BOYS IN CARPET-MAKING. IN ADDITION, THE GOP ANNOUNCED THAT SIMILAR CENTERS WOULD BE SET UP FOR WOMEN. THE GOP RELEASE SAID NEARLY DOLS 14 MILLION WOULD BE SPENT ON THIS PROGRAM DURING CY 1982.

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5. (C) COMMENT: AS SEEN FROM HERE, ALMOST ALL ASPECTS OF HARTLING'S LOCALLY WELL-PUBLICIZED VISIT WENT SMOOTHLY. THE GOP WAS ASSURED OF CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR THE RELIEF EFFORT, DONOR NATION REPS WERE GIVEN AN ARTICULATE AND EFFECTIVE EXPOSITION ON THE SUCCESSES OF UNHCR IN PAKISTAN, AND A NEEDED SHIFT IN UNHCR POLICIES WAS MADE PUBLIC. HARTLING SEEMED GENUINELY PLEASED WITH WHAT HE HAD SEEN AND CONVEYED THIS TO HIS AUDIENCES.

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